

### Claims

1. A two piece carton for containing a group of similar articles such as bottles, the two piece carton comprising a tray and a cover, wherein the tray comprises panels for providing a bottom wall and opposed end walls of the carton which form a first U shaped structure and wherein the cover comprises panels for providing a top wall and downwardly extending opposed side walls of the carton which form a second U shaped structure complementary to the first U shaped structure, in which the top wall is positioned at an elevation lower the upper edges of the end walls, the first and second U-shaped structures together providing a substantially fully enclosed carton.
2. A carton according to claim 1 wherein the top panel is disposed at an elevation below an upper extremity of either end wall of the carton and/or of either side wall of the carton.
3. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the one U-shaped structure comprises flaps which provide support to the side walls of the other U-shaped structure and additionally a surface to which the side walls of the other U-shaped structure can be secured.
4. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the top panel of the carton comprises apertures for receiving the articles or portions thereof, wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.
5. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising at least one reinforced handle aperture being struck from one of said side and end walls of the carton.
6. A carton according to claim 4 wherein the frangible connection is arranged such that upon removal of the articles, the carton retains sufficient structural integrity to be re-used for returning empty articles.

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7. A two part blank for forming two piece a carton for containing a group of similar articles, such as bottles, the blank comprising first and second parts, the first part for forming a tray comprising a bottom panel and opposing end walls for forming a first U-shaped structure, the second part for forming a cover comprising a top panel and opposing side walls for forming a second U-shaped structure that is complementary to the first U-shaped structure, the first and second U-shaped structures are disposed in an opposed relationship when the carton is in a setup condition and wherein the second U shaped structure comprises downwardly extending sidewalls and in the top panel is disposed at an elevation below that of the upper periphery of the end walls.

8. A blank according to claim 7 wherein the first part comprises flaps for providing support to the side walls of the second part and additionally a surface to which the side walls of the second part can be secured.

9. A blank according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the top panel of the second part is at an elevation below an upper extremity of the end walls of the first part when the carton is in a set-up condition.

10. A blank according to any one of claims 7 to 9 wherein the top panel of the second part comprises apertures for receiving the articles or portions thereof, wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.

11. A blank to form a carton according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

12. A carton comprising opposed side walls, opposed end walls and top and bottom panels, wherein a plane of the top panel is lower than an upper edge of either end wall and wherein the carton further comprises handle apertures struck from said end walls.